

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

August 17, 2025 • 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



*Keep
your
eyes
fixed
on
Jesus*

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Robert A. Reiley*

Parish Council President*Darren DeArment*
E-mail.....dbd269@gmail.com
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Tina Seiger*
Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail.....stjbparish@comcast.net
Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary..... (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center..... (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information..... (570) 622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays..... 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
 or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C. (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Communion for the Homebound



If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For our Sick: *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker*

For our Deceased: *James Minchhoff*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 16

5:00 p.m. Sadie Post
(Sandi, Sheri, RJ Post)

Sunday, August 17

8:15 a.m. Steve Kurtek Jr.
(Jan & Steve Kurtek)

Sunday, August 17

10:30 a.m. Maria Weiss
(Jamina Asarhan)

Monday, August 18 — No Mass

Tuesday, August 19 — No Mass

Wednesday, August 20

6:30 p.m. George Hahner Jr.
(Time Change) (Hahner Family)

Thursday, August 21

6:30 p.m. Ted Casey
(Time Change) (Bill & Sally Casey Family)

Friday, August 22

11:15 a.m. Jack Scheetz
(Time Change) (Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Saturday, August 23

5:00 p.m. Peggy & Edward Petrovich
(Kelly & Becky Derbes)

Sunday, August 24

8:15 a.m. Paul Filiac
(Mary Ann Filiac)

Sunday, August 24

10:30 a.m. Joseph Garland
(Garland & Kurtek Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

These past weeks, we looked at the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. These are the three Synoptic Gospels, which means they see things the same way. They are very similar in many ways, although we tried to identify how each is also unique and introduces us to Jesus in different ways.

Today we come to the Gospel According to John. There are several features that make John different from the other Gospels. Perhaps the most important difference is in John's theological perspective. We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man. Jesus has a divine nature and a human nature. At the risk of oversimplifying, Matthew, Mark, and Luke tend to introduce Jesus as Man and gradually reveal His divinity. John comes at it from the opposite direction, so to speak. He begins with Jesus as God who became Man. Jesus is God's Word made flesh. All of the Gospels teach the same truth about Jesus, but in different ways.

The style of John's Gospel is also different in some ways. For example, in the other Gospels, Jesus tends to speak in short, memorable sayings. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as giving lengthy speeches or monologues. John's Gospel does not include any of the parables we find in the other Gospels, but uses various metaphors to reveal Jesus (e.g. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches).

More on John next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Sept. 11, 18, 25, Oct. 16, 23, and Nov. 13. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will be on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Pilgrimage program begins at 10:00 am with arrivals and guided tours, followed by time to visit the over 80 chapels and oratories that make up "Mary's House." There will also be a youth holy hour in the Crypt Church, keynote speakers (English and Spanish), and a Rosary Pilgrimage in five languages with beautiful music by our Diocesan Choir. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the day. The day will end with Mass in the Great Upper Church at 3:00 pm celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

Next Week's Readings

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(August 23/24)

Reading I: Isaiah 66:18-21

Reading II: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.



Upcoming Events

August

20	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg.	L.H.
22	4-7 p.m.	Yard Sale	R.B.
23	9-12 noon	Yard Sale	R.B.
23/24	Masses	Mission Appeal	Church

September

10	4-6 p.m.	Penn State Stickies Pickup	R.B.
10	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society	F.R.
11	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
15	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
18	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
25	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.

Weekly Collection

August 9/10\$5,333.75
Improv. & Repairs#1,669.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Please do not use tape or staples to seal your offertory envelopes

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Anna Tranko
by Ingrid Roeding
2. IMO Helene Roeding
by Ingrid Roeding

St. Joseph

1. IMO Paul Kreiger
by Ingrid Roeding
2. IMO Irene Kreiger Steckley
by Ingrid Roeding

Sanctuary

IMO Marjorie Angelo
by Frank Angelo

Guardian Angels

1. For Flesidah & Rosie
by Neil & Frances Manus
2. IMO Diane Leinheiser
by Family
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — August 22 & 23

Friday, August 22nd from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, August 23rd** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building — 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville.

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, various holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.

Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.



Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

Our 2024 **Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous "Grilled Stickies"** was a huge success last year We are hoping to sell even more this year. Members will be taking orders after Masses on the weekends of ... **August 16/17. Pick up date is September 10th at the Russell Building from 4 to 6 p.m.** Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00. For more information, please contact Joan Deiter 570-622-1381 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Catholic Women's Union— Meeting



Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, August 20th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!

Liturgical Min. Schedule

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Frank Murphy, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

August 24 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

EM: Bob Bechtel, Debbie Herb

Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

August 24 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Heenan

EM: Janet Daubert

Michael Ambrose

Servers: Finley McNamara

Colin McGinley

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Seeking Donations

We are seeking donations in the form of gift cards for our Sunday School, CCD program, and Sacramental Prep classes for Confirmation. These gift cards will be used to provide snacks for our students. We will accept gift cards from Boyer's, Weis, Walmart or Giant food stores. Gift cards can be dropped off at the rectory or placed in the offertory basket at church. Please put the card in an envelope marked Religious Education. We also have a wish list on Amazon, St. John's Religious Ed List, for a few school items that we need for this school year. Please prayerfully consider donating to support our students' learning of the Catholic faith. Any questions, please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol. Thank you in advance.

Women's Fellowship

There is growing interest in starting a Women's Fellowship for our parish. The purpose of this group would be to grow in our faith and support one another. All adult women are welcome. We would meet on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tina Seiger by email.loveyouubu@gmail.com.

Prayer for our Troops Around the World

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."
Amen.

*Jesus endured the cross,
despising its shame,
and has taken his seat at the
right of the throne of God.
... Hebrews 12:2*

NEW CCD and Sacramental Preparation Registration

Parents of children in grades 1st through 8th please fill out the CCD registration using the QR code. If your child has been previously enrolled from years past, it is not necessary to do this link. Any **new students in public school grades 1-8** should fill out this form. Students in **parochial school** whose child is in third or eighth grade that are to receive a sacrament this coming school year please use this QR code to register your child. You may also call the rectory at 570-622-5470 and speak with Miss Kochol to register your child.



Share Your Catholic Faith

We are in search of CCD teachers, OCIA instructors and preschool teacher assistants. Are you the person we are looking for? You do not need a teaching degree. Just the desire to teach. We need someone who loves their faith, desires to know more and to share the Catholic faith with others.

We have a great preschool and CCD staff. We are a small staff and need to grow our numbers because we have more families with children joining our church all the time. We also have people joining the faith that are adults or young people that would be better served by Order of Christian Initiation of Adults -OCIA (the former RCIA). We need instructors to help these candidates become full members of the Church.

Preschool has many wonderful parents helping as teachers, but we do need a Teacher Assistant to help with the busy hands and feet of our students. We are hoping a high school student would be a perfect fit. You can use this experience on a resume or for community service hours at your school.

We can support you with guidance and training. Please prayerfully consider helping the children and adults of our community come into full communion with the Catholic faith and our parish family. Please contact Tina Seiger or Lucilla Kochol at the rectory to volunteer.

Sunday School Registration ... 2025-2026 ... Ages 3-6

Children ages three to six are welcome to join our pre-school program. We will have classes twice a month starting in September until May in Longinus Hall from 10:30 a.m. to the end of Mass. We ask that you stay during class if your child is not, yet toilet trained.

Children's Liturgy ... 2025-2026 ... Grades 1-3

Children in grades first to third are invited to join Children's Liturgy also held during the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Chapel. They will learn more about the Mass and the weekend scripture readings. Children will return to Mass with their parents after the offertory.

Please register by filling out this form that you can cut out and return it to the rectory. Or use the Google link below. To use the link, you will need a Google email account.

Google Link to Children's Liturgy: <https://forms.gle/bbqrfdV2SmS1g3NXA>

Google Link to Preschool: <https://forms.gle/FXXN9UwNU7o3xslx7>

Please circle one below:

Little Saints Preschool Registration

Children's Liturgy

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: - _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____

Circle how you can help: teacher helper snacks



THE BOARD OF PASTORS ANNOUNCE

Mrs. Carol Boyer will continue as interim school principal for this school year. This assures the quality of education and standard of leadership required for the education of our children, seriously, socially and academically.

Nativity BVM High School Host Families Needed.

Nativity BVM High School has accepted several wonderful international students from Spain, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan. These students are excited to begin school in late August, but are in need of loving host families. All types of families are eligible to host: empty-nesters, single people, families with children. Students speak good English, and they have their own spending money and insurance. Host families receive a generous monthly stipend. For more information, please contact mchallenger.educatus@gmail.com.

CYO Volleyball

Again this school year, Diocese of Allentown CYO Volleyball will be open to any girl who will be in grade 6, 7 or 8 this Fall who attends a Diocesan Elementary School or who is a member of the following Parishes: St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Family Minersville, Holy Cross, Most Blessed Trinity and St. Nicholas in Minersville. Practices and home matches for the season will be held at Nativity High School. Please see the link/scan code below for sign-ups. Do not hesitate to contact Amanda Bobella at Nativity High School with any questions at abobella@nativitybvm.net or 570-622-8110. <https://forms.gle/b2AmW4Gd4FakfwNG8>



St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning invites you to join us for an exciting upcoming event in support of our students and adults with special needs. Don't miss our **Saturday Night Fever Disco** on the evening of **Friday, September 6**, at the SJC Parish Center! This groovy night will kick off our **70th anniversary celebrations** with live music by local favorite, *The Boys Upstairs*. Get ready to dance the night away while celebrating our mission and the incredible individuals we serve. Follow our FB for event updates. Questions? Contact Monica Walborn at 570-622-4638.

Neighboring Events

Summer Sizzler—August 24th ... Youth Ministry—Jr/Sr High. A cook out with games — 11:30 to 1 p.m. ... to thank you for being you! (Bring a towel in case we break out the water balloons.) Meet in St. Ambrose Rectory meeting room at 201 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. Let Mary Ellen Johns know you are coming: 570-385-1031 x 4 or stambroseprep@comcast.net Permission forms need to be completed upon arrival.

Ethnic Food Platter. Sponsored by St. Nicholas Parish on Sunday, August 24th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Nicholas Hall in Primrose. Includes: Pyrohy, Halupki, Kielbasa, Cole Slaw and Roll. Cost is \$15.00. To place orders, please call 570-517-0800 or 570-544-4581.

Blue Mass. This Mass will be offered for all First Responders of all surrounding areas ... Sunday, September 7th at 9 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1115 Walnut St. in Ashland. Everyone is welcome!

Fall Wine & Beer Festival. Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish on Saturday, September 13th from 5 to 10 p.m on the parish grounds at 201 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven. The evening will feature local wineries, craft breweries, food trucks, and music by Another Side and the New Individuals. Admission \$15. A complimentary Fall Fest logo tasting glass with every paid admission. Hope to see you there!

Schuylkill Choral Society Come & Sing With Us!

Auditions for vocal placement September 8 & 15 at 7 p.m. at First United Church of Christ, 110 Route 61, Schuylkill Haven, (use lower entrance)

FESTIVAL THANK YOU

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary Bound for not only preparing and cooking all 250 halupkies for this year's Summer Festival, but also for generously donating the majority of the cost for the past three years. Thank you, Mary, for your incredible dedication and generosity.



August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 | Heb 12:1-4 | Lk 12:49-53

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's readings acknowledge the real challenges of living our faith. Following Christ will sometimes put us at odds with others – an uncomfortable reality that many will face in our broken and divided world. Yet we can find strength knowing that Jesus understands the constant opposition (both inward and outward) that we face. The second reading says, "Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners." Jesus knows what it's like to face opposition, but he endured it "for the sake of the joy that lay before him." That is our calling too. We are made to know the joy that awaits us beyond our crosses. We find the strength to persevere through our trials by "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." Keeping Christ as our focus, we will be able to overcome any obstacle we may face and run toward the goal of heaven.

PRAY

Pray for those whom you may know who seem closed to the Gospel, or who are away from the Church. Invite the Holy Spirit to touch your heart with a particular love and zeal to pray for them, that those who may seem the most opposed to faith might come, one day, to embrace it.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

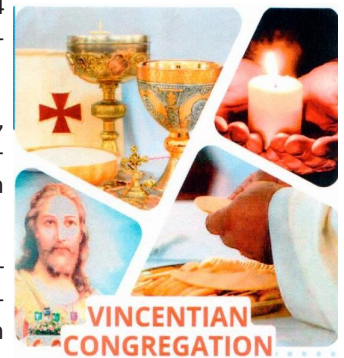
In today's Gospel, Jesus said, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing." Jesus' desire is that the whole world be set aflame with his love, and yet, he knows that this will not come easily. The good news is that Jesus is with us in the midst of the struggle. He too knows the deep longing and even anguish (the Gospel today uses that word!) that we experience as we work so that others may come to know God's love. We can take comfort in the fact that as much as we want to see others come to faith, God desires it even more than we do, and he is also pouring out his grace continually upon us. In the midst of any discouragement we may feel about those who seem opposed to God and to faith, may we remember the burning love that Christ has and his immense desire to draw all people to himself.

Mission Appeal—Visiting Missionary

Fr. Joby Joseph V.C. a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, will be in our parish on August 23 and 24 weekend to participate in our Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will share his missionary experience at all the Masses next weekend and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.

The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.), a Religious Congregation, was founded in Kerala, India in 1904, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing Religious Congregation are engaged in Mission Work in all parts of India and in East Africa and in Peru. Please visit their website: <https://www.vincentians.in/>, to learn more about them.

The Vincentian Missionaries need our help to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities. They need our special financial support for the training of young men studying for priesthood. There will be a special collection next weekend to help the Missionary work of the Vincentian Fathers. We urge you to be very generous in your mission offering since these Missionaries need our help. Please keep Fr. Joby and all the Vincentian Missionaries in your prayers Thank you.

**HELP NEEDED**

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazelton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

Thank you to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!